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18 March 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman,  
Guided Missile Intelligence Committee

Subject: Soviet Guided Missile Requirements

Enclosed are fifteen (15) copies of the Requirements Working Group's contribution to NIE 11-5-58 covering ship-borne surface-to-air missile systems. This contribution is to be integrated with the surface-to-air contribution of 6 March 1958.

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Enclosure (1)

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18 March

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Shipborne Missile Systems

8. At present, the surface units of the Soviet Navy depend upon land based air cover for air defense of forces at sea. The limited radius of action of Soviet fighter aircraft imposes what the Soviets probably consider to be an unacceptable restriction on the surface forces of the Soviet Navy. In order to extend the radius of action of their ships, as well as to provide improved air defense even when under land-based cover, the development and installation of surface-to-air missile systems is a continuing requirement.

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